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CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Certifies Sixth Initiative for Special Election Ballot

Prescription Drug Discount Measure Qualifies.

Sacramento -- Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today the qualification of the sixth initiative for the November 8 statewide special election ballot, this one dealing with prescription drug discounts.

Prescription Drugs. Discounts. Initiative Statute. The measure, sponsored by Ashlee N. Brown of Sacramento, would, according to the title and summary from the Attorney General, establish a discount prescription drug program, overseen by the Department of Health Services; enable certain low- and moderate-income California residents to purchase prescription drugs at reduced prices; impose a \$15 application fee, renewable annually; require the Department's prompt determination of residents' eligibility, based on listed qualifications; authorize Department to contract with pharmacies to sell prescription drugs at agreed-upon discounts negotiated in advance, and to negotiate rebate agreements with drug manufacturers; permit outreach programs to increase public awareness; create a state fund for deposit of rebate payments from drug manufacturers; and allow the program to be terminated under specific conditions.

The measure needed a projected 411,198 registered voter signatures to qualify based on the random sample verifications; it received a projected 429,575 registered voter signatures. Proponent Ashlee Brown's phone number is 916-442-7757.

According to the California Constitution, qualified initiatives go before voters in a statewide election held at least 131 days from the date they qualify. The qualification of this additional measure means six measures have now qualified for the November 8 statewide special election ballot. The other five are: 1) Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Waiting Period and Parental Notification. Initiative Constitutional Amendment; 2) Public Employee Union Dues. Required Employee Consent for Political Contributions. Initiative Statute; 3) Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal. Initiative Statute; 4) School Funding. State Spending. Initiative Constitutional Amendment; and 5) Reapportionment. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

County election officials are verifying two more initiatives; one deals with prescription drug discounts and the other relates to regulation of electric service providers. If they qualify by the June 30th deadline, they will be added to the special election ballot.